

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 remain in the application and have been amended hereby, with claims 4-6 having been cancelled, without prejudice of disclaimer, and new claims 7 and 8 having been added.

This application is a division of application Serial No. 09/882,403 filed June 15, 2001.

As will be noted from the Declaration, Applicants are citizens and residents of Japan and this application originated there.

Accordingly, the amendments made to the specification are provided to place the application in idiomatic English, and the claims are amended to place them in better condition for examination.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jay M. Maioli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jay M. Maioli
Reg. No. 27, 213

JHM:gr